AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) The compound (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~, or one of its salts, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer.

2. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

3. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of alkaline and earth-alkaline metal salts.

4. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, lithium, magnesium and calcium salts.

5. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, comprising a unitary dose comprising from about 10 mg to about 80 mg of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~.

6. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, comprising a unitary dose comprising from about 10 mg to about 80 mg of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, comprising a unitary dose comprising from about 10 mg to 80 mg of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of digestive diseases and conditions comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein the digestive diseases and conditions are selected from the group consisting of Barrett's syndrome, Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, and atypical and oesophageal symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of digestive diseases and conditions comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-~~

~~2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates,

wherein the digestive diseases and conditions are selected from the group consisting of Barrett's syndrome, Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, atypical and oesophageal symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of an ulcer resulting from an infection by *Helicobacter pylori* comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl] sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of an ulcer resulting from an infection by *Helicobacter pylori* comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing the relapse of oesophagitis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing the relapse of oesophagitis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of digestive diseases and conditions according to claim 16, wherein the effective amount of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer exhibits improved pharmacokinetic properties.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered orally.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered via a parenteral solution.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the oral administration is via tablet, capsule or oral suspension or oral emulsion.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the parenteral administration is via an intravenous solution.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the parenteral solution comprises a ~~tenatoprazole~~ salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine and a pharmaceutically acceptable substrate.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered in an amount of about 10 mg to about 120 mg per day.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered in an amount of about 10 mg to about 80 mg per day.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered once per day.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered once per day for a period of about four to about twelve weeks.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered first via an intravenous route and subsequently via an oral route.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the tablet is administered once per week and wherein the tablet comprises about 60 mg to about 90 mg of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine ~~(-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfonyl] imidazol[4,5-b]pyridine~~ substantially free of the (+) enantiomer

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)